

Thorpe Senior Activity Center Newsletter

Vol. 8~ January 2016
Birthstone ~ Garnet
Flower ~ Carnation



Where people come together ...



“Hope
Smiles from the threshold of
the year to come,
Whispering it will be happier’.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Calling all seniors ... We are looking for you

We invite you and those you know to be part of Thorpe Center. Invite a friend, tell a neighbor that they will find a warm welcome.

Like to play cards, scrabble, take part in history, literature, exercise, yoga, art or ceramic classes? Then we are the place for you.

Like company when you dine? Then we are the place for you. Delicious fare, transportation too. Come join the fun. Call 359-5801 or 359-4058. We're waiting for you!

Sister Maureen

Light Up the World

Sister Jude Miriam

December is quickly fading and January is upon us. The end of a year and the arrival of a new year gives me the time to pause and be grateful for all that has been and to look forward to a new year hopefully with peace.

At this time of year we hear people talking about making “New Year’s Resolutions” to start the New Year on a positive note. A resolution according to Webster is “determining a decision as the future action.” Many of us make resolutions on New Year’s Day and many of us break them early in the New Year.

Maybe this coming year, 2016, will be filled with more than “just” resolutions. Hopefully, it will be a year where we all will be gentler, kinder and more considerate of each other. A smile, a “please”, and a “thank you” can brighten someone else’s day and when they pass it on brighten yet someone else’s day.

The primary message of this time of the year is one of light and brightness. Each of us can be a light in the life of someone else, so this world which seems so dark and bleak to many will be brighter each day and light the way for peace and harmony.

Happy New Year

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Dominican Convent
175 Route 340, Sparkill, New York



(845) 359-5801 OR (845) 359-4058 Voice Mail
Transportation provided



Holiday Entertainment

During the month of December, Thorpe Senior Center members were the guests of the Dominican Sisters at two concerts held in Dominican Convent.

The first event was Aquinas High School students presented their Christmas Concert. The Musical portion was followed by the String Orchestra, the Dance Program and the Drama Club all carefully woven together to fill the room with music.

The next concert was The Brass Band from St. Edmund's Prep in Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn for over an hour with spirited music for the holiday. The musical talent of these fine young people filled the halls of Dominican Convent and the hearts of each one of us with joy and happiness.

On December 22 the Center was entertained by the South Orangetown Italian Club, a spirited group of students who are studying Italian as a second language. On December 29, a lively group of "Daisies" from Orangetown Daisy Troop visited with holiday songs. What sheer pleasure and enjoyment each group brought with them. They were definitely "lamp lighters" for all in attendance. Thanks for coming!

*In these uncertain times ...
When you'd like to dine out ...*



Thorpe Senior Center Is waiting for you !

Lunch every day ...
Great food ...
Warm conversation
New friends ...

For a menu and to make a reservation
Call 359-4058 or 359-5801

Transportation provided

Come to the place where "everybody knows your name"!

Activities at Thorpe

HISTORY WITH SISTER MAUREEN -
Mondays at 10:00

LITERATURE GROUP WITH SISTER JUDE -
Wednesdays at 10:15

CERAMICS - Mondays 12:45

EXERCISE - Fridays 10:00

CARDS - SCRABBLE - BINGO - WALKING CLUB

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

(Check calendar for dates and times)

SHOPPING - Shop Rite Northvale
Mondays 1 PM

Orangeburg - Fridays 1 PM

Macy's, - check calendar

One of Our Special Visitors Returns -

On December 8, Rabbi Paula Drill was welcomed back to the Senior Center. What a distinct pleasure it is to have her come and share with us. During this season of light her timely presentation was about being a "Lamp lighter". From the group she surfaced names of people we might say were Lamp lighters- Pope Francis, Former President Jimmy Carter, Abraham Lincoln as well as Nelson Mandela, and Harriet Tubman. I learned from what Rabbi Paula said was that we all should be beacons of light to all our fellow citizens. Doing a deed of interest, providing a gift of what we could and leave a lasting impression. It was an extremely delightful day and we were delighted to find that Rabbi Scheff came along with her. At the f the program Rabbi Scheff chanted a prayer for all in attendance. What a joy filled occasion!

Pat O'Donnell



Our Local Orangeburg Christmas Parade
Pat O'Donnell

On December 12th, my Cortwood friends and I had the pleasure of enjoying quite a parade. It was 100% fire engines along with two cement mixers adorned with hundreds and hundreds of Christmas lights.

As each one passed us there were Christmas carols playing. Elves, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus came with blazing headlights and amazing vehicles.

One incredible displayed stood out – One fire engine had a fireplace on top with smoke pouring out !!!

Fire engines came from all over Rockland and a few fire companies from nearby in Bergen County! What a treat!



U S Pharmacy Lab

Bella Whalen

December 16, Thorpe Senior Activity Center had a husband and wife speaks to us on a new concept in Pharmacy called the US Pharmacy, which is located in Northvale, New Jersey. They are a full service pharmacy and will work with you and your doctors to see that all is in order. They also do genetic screening. You might say they go beyond just filling your prescriptions. Sue Coleman and her husband gave us useful information. They have only been in business a short time, but I'm sure they will have a lot of offers.

Thank you

Dear Friends,

I just want to thank you for all the gifts you had in our gift boxes. Everything we received was useful. To me, the children at our local elementary school showed us the true Christmas spirit. The seniors at Thorpe Senior Activity Center were very happy and appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. I hope your holidays were as happy for you, as you made ours.

The Christmas Spirit

Sister Mary John O'Brien

On Saturday, December 16, Shari Sanford was happy to receive \$517.00 for the Greenbush Food Pantry. The jar in Hogan's Diner contributed \$67.00 added to money from my family made all of us so pleased. That, of course, includes the recipients of others' generosity.

You might be thinking . . ."what's all this about a food pantry?" Going back several years I called the Greenbush Presbyterian Church and asked if I might help in any way. Shari Sanford, the director of the program, said she was there at 7AM to prepare two brown bags for each family (there are 25 families involved) The bags contain non-perishable goods. Shari is very careful to provide only low sodium and low sugar items. Since I was not able to be there by 7 AM, I told her I could make it by 9 AM.

It came to me that Nick Hogan would probably allow me to put a jar near the register. Nick did and often throws in \$20. When my family asked me what I wanted for Christmas, I said "a donation for the Greenbush Food Pantry". They obliged!

Shari Sanford was delighted to be able to continue buying goods for all the needy, most of them in Spring Valley. They are most grateful.

A Special

Thank You!

Dear Mary Ellen Doremus and Pat Kennick,
Thanks for everything you do!

Where do we all begin to say a million thank yous? Because of both of you, we seniors were able to sit back, relax and enjoy the Thorpe Thanksgiving Party.

We so very much appreciate all the work you did to make a delightful day. With sincere appreciation on behalf of Thorpe Center Seniors.



Decorating With House Plants Pat O'Donnell

Day before Thanksgiving we enjoyed the final Alert and Alive Program for 2015. Vivian as our guest speaker taught us a lot, especially how to insure we'd have a green thumb. We watched a film and were "introduced" to the plants she brought with her. Vivian is a very delightful, happy lady. We really enjoyed her presentation.

Christmas Entertainment with the Italian Club Francine Fevola

As they do every year, the South Orangetown Italian Club at the Middle School visited us at the Thorpe Senior Activity Center. The girls were dressed in their ethnic costumes and danced the Tarantilla. Their singing was angelic.

Next, they played Tombola (Italian bingo) The students sat among the seniors and a jolly good time was had by all. The students' parents baked Christmas cookies and we all enjoyed the day.

Christmas Party



Sister Maureen, Sister Marie, Francine, Sister Jude,
and ever faithful volunteers,

Thank you all for the wonderful Christmas Party. The room looked so festive, the food was good and plentiful, the conversations interesting, and the accordion the pictures.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Ellie Robertson

Learning about Rockland and the County's History Pat O'Donnell

Bob Goldberg of the Historical Society paid us a visit and we enjoyed it so much we want him to come back. He showed slides of buildings and roadside signs in the Tappan area. Most of us have been to these places and read the signs but he did his presentation in chronological order.

Seeing the information in sequential date order made it easier to see what an important part Rockland county played in events leading up to the revolution and during the Revolutionary War. The hour flew by quickly. We had thought we knew all the information, but we learned so much more, especially how one event led to another and how they all came together.

Tappan was at the center of much of the activity.

We have all this history right in our own backyard. When you visit historical locations in other areas it is very interesting, but then you remember what we have all around us. It certainly makes one proud.

Thanks for the wonderful program, Bob. We look forward to your return on January 19 at 10am.



The Coloring Group

Pat O'Donnell

This group led by Ellie Robertson has attracted a nice large group. It is time well spent, relaxing and letting our creative juices flow. The newest hobby for adults is one of the nicest things since board games

Anyone interested in this "new activity" check the calendar and come join us.

God's Candle is the Human Soul
(Proverbs 20:27)

By Rabbi Naomi Levy,
Nashuva, Los Angeles, CA

"We are God's candle
We are made to shine
Not just one time in our history
But every day, even today.
God knows the awesome potential
Hidden inside us.,
The gift of Chanukah is the light
We must bring
To this precious world.
On this night we remember our power
Mighty and eternal.
Bless us, God, with courage and strength
Health, love and peace.
We are God's candle
May we shine and illuminate the world. Amen".



I was telling our friend, Minna Kaufman about the wonderful program, "The Lamplighters" presented by Rabbi Paula Drill and Rabbi Craig Scheff to the seniors on Hanukkah.

Minna shared this poem with me and I wished to share it with all of our readers, for indeed, each of you are "God's candle" brightening the world for others. Thanks Minna!



Do you like Hockey?

Jimmy Grennan went to Madison Square Garden to enjoy a wonderful hockey game.. The game was between the Hurricanes and the New York Rangers. Before the game Jim and his brothers Andrew, and Johnny and his nephew, Max visited the Locker room of the Rangers and the Knicks. They share locker rooms during their seasons.

It was a great game and best of all the Rangers won. 4-3.

Jimmy Grennan

**We remember those who are ill
and in need of cheery thoughts....**

Please keep in your prayers Sister Maureen Bradshaw as she continues to heal.

Prayerful thoughts and wishes for healing
Sylvia Friedman, Mary Bradshaw, Anthony Armetta, Debbie Sumrall, Anna Ely, Christopher Bradshaw, Elaine Palaia, Connie Fedele, Tom Mooney, Sister Stephanie Robinson, Mary Quinn, Mary Burke, Patricia Lawler, Joseph Bradshaw, Anne Lenzinger, Doris Bleicher, Kelly Foley, Sister Joanne Deas, Father David Paul, Julianne Schifano, Gerry Hershkob, Lynch Family, Lucille Sterlace, Frank DeVito, Lisa Stevens, Lillian Lewis, Harold Schulman, and Billy Keenan .

For all caregivers and those they care for so lovingly and quietly. Sisters of St. Dominic (Blauvelt) and Sparkill Dominican Sisters in need of healing.

We extend our sympathy to Walter Gould Thorpe Center Activity Van Driver on the death of his sister,



Someone Special

Jane Halleran

We have a member at the Thorpe Senior Activity Center, named Phyllis Cammarata that I would like to tell you a little about. I usually sit with Phyllis and she people in a game of cards and much conversation.

One of the things I like about Phyllis is how she talks about her personal history from the past. Every time she starts talking about when she was young, I get such a happy feeling. She is a diehard New Yorker. Her mother ran the apartment to perfection. She tells us that everything had its place. Phyllis came from a large family and said her mother was one of eleven – God rest her soul and may she rest in peace. Thanks Phyllis for sharing with us.

**This Month in History –
JANUARY**

- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.
- 1877 Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India
- 1870 Construction began on the Brooklyn Bridge
- 1892 Ellis Island in New York opened
- 1909 Automobile hearse used 1st time in funeral processions
- 1920 Prohibition takes effect
- 1920. Yankees buy Babe Ruth from Boston Red Sox.
- 1922 Insulin used the first time
- 1924 First Winter Olympics took place in French Alps
- 1929 Influenza epidemic causes 200,00 deaths
- 1931 Banks “Go Bust” following stock market crash
- 1933 20th Amendment to Constitution ratified
- 1933 Work started on Golden Gate Bridge
- 1935 First canned beer sold
- 1942 Declaration of the United Nations(26) signed
- 1944 G.I Bill signed into law
- 1954 Elvis Presley records first Demo record
- 1955 Marilyn Monroe marries Joe Di Maggio
- 1959 Alaska admitted as 49th State
- 1961 John F. Kennedy takes oath of office
- 1981 Iran releases 52 American hostages after 444 days
- 1986 “Challenger” explodes just after lift-off
- 2007 Nancy Pelosi elected 1st female Speaker of the House
- 2010 Haiti hit by massive magnitude 7.0 earthquake
200,00 killed
- 2015 Tony Awards Best Musical Revival “The King and I

Oh! What a Party

Pat O’ Donnell

I believe that this year’s Christmas Party which was hosted on December 23 was the best yet Sister Maureen, Sister Marie and Sister Jude really went above and beyond to provide us with a very happy party day.

The amount of food, thanks to the Commissary and appetizers, gratis from the center was incredible. They even provided us with a candy gift and lottery card gifts. / The dessert of cheesecake was a very special treat and topped off with fresh fruit . . .it was fabulous.

We enjoyed the accordionist Eric and the beautiful voices of Kenn Doller and Katie Raia. A joy filled day was had by all. Thanks

LITERATURE GROUP

by Marcy Piper



In Literature class we have been reading the poetry of Emily Dickinson and learning about her. She is the type of person who would be thought eccentric and saying “she marches to a different drummer” would fit her. She never married and lived in the family home in Amherst, Massachusetts and always wore white.. She had siblings and was close to her brother, Austin and her sister, Lavinia. It was Lavinia who discovered her cache of poems after Emily’s death. Emily wrote poems about so many topics, Some of the poems had little or no rhyme scheme. The town’s residents thought of her as a celebrity who kept to herself. Visitors to Amherst would walk past her home hoping to catch a glimpse of her.

Actress Julie Harris did a one-woman show on Broadway and brought the poet to life. We watched a film version of the show. The amount of dialog a performer has to learn is mind-boggling but Miss Harris provides an outstanding performance.

“This is my letter to the world,
That never wrote to me, -
The simple news that Nature told,
With tender majesty.”

Her message is committed
To hands that cannot see;
For love of her, sweet countrymen,
Judge tenderly of me!”
Emily Dickinson

THORPE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

STAFF: Sr. Maureen Bradshaw, Manager
Sr. Jude Miriam, Service Coordinator
Francine Fevola, Program Coordinator
Michael Gorkowski, Custodian
Walter Gould, our Driver

OFFICERS 2013 - 2017

Co-Presidents - Mickie Parisi and Alice Dion isio
Co - Secretaries - Patricia O'Donnell
Co-Treasurers -Connie DiMaio and Lillian Maresco

Special Advisors

– Sylvia Friedman, Nora Buckley, and Marion O’Leary.
These lovely ladies will work with the Staff and Officers